

(Central Region Highlights is published by National Weather Service Central Region Headquarters. The contents are informative and should not be construed as directive or regulatory. Any material that discusses new procedures or impending change to directives is for advance information only.)

October 24, 2001

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dennis H. McCarthy

Catching Up in Busy Times

We have all been pretty busy these days, and we have let our time between Highlights issues lag a bit. In recent weeks, we have certainly been through some trying and uncertain times.

In addition, we have lost two very dedicated Central Region employees. Chicago ESA Bill Wontroba and Springfield RMS Mark Tomash both succumbed to cancer. I know all Central Region employees join the staffs at Chicago and Springfield in expressing our condolences to the families of these two members of our NWS family.

Several of our Central Region colleagues have lost close family members in recent weeks, including Marquette MIC Ed Fenelon's father and Green Bay DAPM Al LaGree's wife. Dean Braatz, retired HIC of the NCRFC, recently notified us about the death of his wife, Shirley.

As we continue to do our duty and provide the critical services which are so important to our nation during this unprecedented period, it is more important than ever to work together in a strong spirit of teamwork and cooperation. We have just completed an extremely successful fiscal and performance year, demonstrating just how strong that spirit is in the Region.

It has been great news to hear about all of the awards recently announced for Central Region employees. Recent retiree Larry Krudwig is a member of a team receiving a DOC Silver Medal for NOAA Weather Radio expansion. Roland Devoe, Bill Gary, Janet Miller, Larry Mooney, and Joe Sullivan are members of the Radar Web Design Team receiving a DOC Silver Medal. This same team also received a National Weather Association Award at the NWA's recent national meeting. The WFO Wichita staff will receive a DOC Silver Medal for the accurate and timely warnings issued in southeast Kansas on April 19, 2000.

Charles Lyon, Houston Kendrick, and Mark Tomash have been awarded a group Bronze Medal for their participation in national testing on the WSR-88D, ASOS, and Upper Air; and for their work in the development of Engineering Handbook 15. SOOs Pete Wolf and Dan Baumgardt are part of another Bronze medal team for their efforts in field training. WCMs Rusty Kapela and Todd Heitkamp are both receiving Bronze Medals for their outstanding outreach and WCM activities. The excellent on-station severe weather training and verification program at WFO North Platte has also been acknowledged with a DOC Bronze Medal award; the program led to the office's six-year average of Critical Success Index verification scores for severe local storm warnings being the highest of any NWS office in the country. We will soon be presenting a

NOAA Unit Citation to the Grand Rapids WFO staff members for their outstanding efforts last winter.

Congratulations to all of these Central Region award winners!

W/CR - Dennis H. McCarthy

Central Region People

Bob Collins Bids NWS, Windy City Good-Bye after Lengthy Career

Robert W. Collins, WFO Chicago's only DAPM ever will retire November 3, 2001, after working his last Saturday evening shift. Bob will have accumulated more than 40 years of government service, splitting the time almost evenly between the Air Force and the NWS.

Born and raised in Chicago Heights, Bob began his Air Force career in August 1961. His assignments included stints at the Severe Weather Forecast Office in Kansas City; Korea; Thailand; Scott AFB; Hurlburt Field Florida, where Hurricane Camille greeted Bob on his first day as a Forecaster, Okinawa; Kelly AFB Texas; and finally Chanute AFB as a meteorology instructor.

Bob was selected as Chanute Instructor of the Year in 1980. While in the Air Force he completed two Associate degrees from the Air Force Community College (Instructor in Technology and Applied Science) and earned a BA from Eastern Illinois University. Bob married his wife Sandy just after his return from the far east in 1965.

Bob began his NWS career at WSMO Marseilles in 1983. He transferred to WFO Chicago where he was Port Meteorological Officer (PMO) for eight years, SMT and eventually DAPM. Innovative and aggressive, Bob accumulated many awards over his NWS career, the two most noteworthy being a Bronze Medal in 1988 for his contributions to the Great Lakes marine program and the DOC Silver Medal in 1998 for his work in recruiting the cooperation of major grocery chains in publicizing severe weather safety rules. Bob has volunteered to give many outreach presentations over the years.

Bob and Sandy have two sons, Rob, who is currently Sports Director at Patrick AFB, Florida; and Chris, a nine-year Army vet now a junior at Northern Illinois University. They have three grandchildren David, 12, Morganne, 10, and Daniel, 9.

What's in the future for the Collins family? Lots of travel the first few months. Bob has been an outstanding athlete over the years – he is an avid low 80s golfer and sports a bowling average in the 180s – so plenty of golf and bowling are in the picture. Bob and Sandy may eventually relocate to either Kentucky, where Sandy's family resides, or Florida, where many of Bob's relatives have moved. Wherever they go, Bob will be very active in church and community affairs.

Congratulations, Bob, on two stellar careers.

17TH Annual NWSGA/Central Region Golf Outing Planned

Chairman Brian Hahn of WFO Milwaukee has announced preliminary arrangements for the 17th Annual NWS Golf Association/Central Region Golf Outing to be held June 25-28, 2002, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Golf at : 1. Blank Golf Course (Tuesday and Thursday)

gold tees – men – length = 5,872 yards

red tees – ladies – length = 5,647 yards

18 hole golf fees: about \$21.00 walking...\$27.00 with 1/2 cart (\$22.00 with cart for Seniors). Use of power carts is not required.

2. Willow Creek Golf Course (Wednesday and Friday)

gold tees – men – length = 5,924 yards

red tees – ladies – length = 5,572 yards

18 hole fees: about \$28.00 walking...\$38.00 with 1/2 cart. No Senior discount. Use of power carts is not required.

Lodging and hospitality at Best Inn Suites located directly across the highway from Willow Creek Golf Course, and about 5 miles from Blank Golf Course. Daily room rates = \$69.95 plus 10% tax (1-4 persons per room) – includes continental breakfast. Ten percent discounts available for AAA and AARP members. Reservations must be made by May 25, 2002, at toll-free 1-877-605-0331 or 515-285-0654.

Format: 4 person mixed Scrambles on Tuesday and Wednesday

Individual golf (flighted) Thursday and Friday – Ladies' Division 1 flight;

NWS Men's Division 3 or 4 flights; Men Guests 1 or 2 flights

Putting contest Wednesday afternoon

Awards luncheon Friday afternoon at golf course or hotel

Entry Fee: around \$42.00 for 4 days-includes Friday awards luncheon. Details, maps, and entry forms to be distributed by May 1, 2002.

Tentative Schedule (times are approximate):

Tues. June 25: 4-person mixed Scramble; tee times Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Wed. June 26: 4-person mixed Scramble; tee times 8-9:30 a.m.; putting contest

Thurs. June 27: Individual golf; tee times 8-9 a.m.

Fri. June 28: Individual golf (flighted); tee times 8-9 a.m.

Fri. June 28: Awards Luncheon 1 p.m.

Brian Hahn - Chairman

Tournament Host - Jerry Adams - Des Moines, IA

For additional information, contact Brian at the WFO.

ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Gary S. Foltz

Central Region Headquarters Relocation

Mid-America Contractors has begun work on the NWS Training Center to modify the space to accommodate the Central Region Headquarters operation. The initial effort is focused on modifying several existing classrooms to replace classrooms that will be “de-constructed” and used as office space for CRH employees. The current schedule shows a completion date for all construction on January 15, 2002. CRH will then vacate our current location in the Bolling Federal Building in downtown Kansas City and relocate to the Training Center/AWC building south of Kansas City International Airport by February 1, 2002.

W/CRx1 - Gary S. Foltz

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Patrick J. Slattery

Supplementary Doppler Radar

The Sept. 20 announcement of the contract award to Enterprise Radar for the permanent Doppler radar to serve the Evansville, Indiana, area as well as portions of southeast Illinois and northwest Kentucky was the major news story for Central Region during September 2001. Central Region coordinated with HQ and Congressional Affairs to provide notice of the announcement to members of Congress, to the Evansville Radar Task Force and to the media the day of the announcement.

On Sept. 21, CASC property acquisition notified Central Region HQ that the landowner and the government had agreed on a purchase price for the parcel of land on which to locate the radar. The agreement must be reviewed by the Department of Justice, and closing is scheduled for November.

NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter Dedication

The September 28 dedication of the Branson/Indian Ridge NOAA Weather Radio transmitter received considerable local attention from media in southwest Missouri. The dedication was held at Stonebridge Country Club in Branson. Central Region Electronics Program Manager Jerry Finke and personnel from WFO Springfield attended the dedication. With this transmitter, NWR coverage is available to 97 percent of Missouri residents. According to Jerry, the state of Missouri ultimately has plans for the purchase and donation of two more NWR transmitters to the NWS to give the state 100 percent coverage. Missouri would then join Illinois as Central Region states with NWR coverage to 100 percent of the population.

WFO Cheyenne Receives ‘Friend of Science Education’ Award

WFO Cheyenne and its staff were recently honored by being selected to receive the “Friend of Science Education” award for 2001 from the Wyoming Science Teachers Association. MIC Bill Parker accepted the award at an October 5 ceremony and noted: “This is truly a team award. It says a great deal about our commitment to science education and office outreach efforts over the years.”

The ceremony program noted the WFO “had dedicated both its time and resources over the years

promoting science and education..." in a variety of areas including:

- "1) establishing a highly effective and productive Adopt-A-School partnership with Carey Junior High School,
- "2) providing an open door policy for public and private school tours,
- "3) providing in-classroom special training and career guidance,
- "4) lending time and resources to Wyoming's Starbase Academy sponsored by the Wyoming Air National Guard,
- "5) mentoring science teachers for the American Meteorological Society's Project DataStreme,
- "6) judging local and district science and participating in career fairs, and
- "7) organizing and supporting the Women in Science forums annually since 1999."

Congratulations, Cheyenne staff.

W/CRx3 - Patrick J. Slattery

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

J. Michael Looney

September Monster of the Month

September 2001 was relatively quite with only two significant weather events. Severe thunderstorms with damaging winds swept across the eastern part of the St. Louis Metro area late on September 8 into the early morning of September 9. Nine minor injuries occurred at a RV Park.

On September 20, numerous severe thunderstorms and a least one tornado, an F0, hit south-central Iowa, southeast of Des Moines. A large out-building and grain elevator were destroyed and trees were damaged.

StormReady Total Reaches 68 Designations

Central Region continues to pioneer expansion of the StormReady program. Designations have reached 68 sites with several additional sites planned for October.

IFPS Update

Seven Central Region WFOs have begun posting experimental IFPS graphics on their web sites. All 38 Central Region WFO MICs have completed IFPS training; 36 of 38 Central Region WFO focal points have been trained.

Severe Weather Statistical Review Quite Revealing

Why did tornado lead time drop well below standards during the first quarter of 2001? That was the question that resulted in a potentially beneficial review of first quarter (calendar year) tornado statistics.

The dramatic drop in tornado warning lead time was directly related to one event, the April 10-11 tornado outbreak across the Texas/Oklahoma Panhandle, Kansas, Nebraska, northern Missouri, and Iowa areas. This was a "cold" event featuring low-top storms, which proved to be

difficult to diagnose and warn. This event will be studied and will become the subject of a COMET module. The goal is to have this event available for “replay” on the Warning Environment Simulator this winter – well in advance of next spring’s severe weather.

W/CR1 - J. Michael Looney

Aviation Weather

The Central Region Aviation Conference will be held November 13-15 at the NWSTC. We strongly encourage at least one person from each Central Region office attend the conference.

The Aviation Services brochure is in the process of being updated. It’s been a few years since the old one came out. The new brochure is in the initial phase, so it’ll be awhile yet before it’s complete.

On Saturday, December 15, the number of Central Region TAFs will increase - by one. The new TAF service is for Sawyer County Airport at Hayward, Wisconsin. That will bring total number of Central Region TAFs to 130.

Fire Weather

WFO Jackson conducted a Customer-Partner Workshop in August. Eleven people attended, with representatives from emergency management, radio, and TV. WFO Jackson staff listened to our customer-partners and discussed new products and services such as graphical forecasts and AHPS. WFO Jackson received some excellent feedback and participants recommended another workshop be held next year.

The last Central Region IMET deployment this year? It just might be Byron Paulson of WFO Minneapolis. Byron was deployed to the Superior National Forest for a planned two-week prescribed burn. The burn was not completed and Byron was de-mobilized earlier than expected – which might have been a disappointment for him (the rumor is that he took his fishing pole with him).

Marine Weather

A compact disk containing material presented at the Regional Great Lakes Marine Workshop (held at Great Lakes ERL last May) is now available. If you want a copy of the CD, contact Gary Schmeling. Special thanks to Detroit MIC Dick Wagenmaker, who volunteered to compile and format the material to make this CD.

The message below is from WFO Grand Rapids MIC Daniel Houser to North Central Lower Michigan MIC Gary Campbell:

“I [talked with a person] who sails up to the north channel every year. This year they were coming back and [your office issued] a marine warning that included times during which a squall line would pass through your marine area. The broadcast was calling for up to 70 knot winds. They were approaching the Straights and your broadcast indicated that the line would hit them about the time they would be in the Straights. They did not want to be caught in that kind of wind in a narrow channel so they headed back out into Lake Huron and got their life jackets on and battened down the hatches. She said it hit right on time with gusts to 50 knots. Just thought

you would like to know. Your office also made us look good. Thanks."

And from Milwaukee WCM Rusty Kapela:

"...we received a phone call from the Milwaukee Coast Guard during the evening of August 12 concerning a powerful thunderstorm wind gust over Lake Michigan, east of Sheboygan, WI ... [W]e were able to track down the ship's phone number and talk to the person who was on "watch" that evening. Here's the stats...

"20 miles east/northeast of Sheboygan, WI

"Max gust 95 knots (109 mph) at 915 pm CDT (anemometer 55' above water surface)

"Strongest winds above 35 knots lasted about 10 minutes, whole storm about 30 minutes

"Whiteout conditions - observer couldn't see the water surface

"Ship vibrated/shuddered

"Damage...a running light was ripped off and several hoses blown off the deck

"Boat - 'South Down Challenger' - cement hauler about 600' long"

According to Rusty, WFO Milwaukee issued a Special Marine Warning for the waters east of Sheboygan at 8:19 pm CDT - a lead time of 56 minutes!

W/CR1x3 – Gary C. Schmeling

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES DIVISION

Kenneth D. King

Hydro Highlights for September 2001

AHPS Mainstem Navigation on Central Region Web Pages

Central Region met its goal of having all 38 WFOs on line with the seamless navigation of hydro products on mainstem rivers by the end of the fiscal year. As of October 1, 2001, web users may access hydro data all along mainstem rivers without having to go from one WFO web page to another; instead, for example, users can go on a virtual reality cruise on the Mississippi River from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to New Madrid, Missouri, from a single web page. The navigation product can be found at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps/index.html> News of the capability was one of the articles used to launch the revamped NWS Headquarters home page.

Central Region Demonstrates AHPS at NWS HQ

On Sept. 19, three Central Region employees provided a demonstration to NWSH personnel of AHPS across the region. HSD Chief Kenneth King, Web Services Team Leader Eric Helgeson and WFO support contractor Shripad Deo made the presentation to personnel from OS, OHD, OSP, NCEP, CFO and IA in three separate briefing sessions. Representatives from Eastern Region also attended. The presentation covered the overall direction of AHPS, the consistent presence on the Internet, Central Region work to gather customer feedback, strategies for increasing the customer base and regional plans for FY02.

WFO Dodge City Earns High Water Mark

The High Water Mark for October 2001 goes to WFO Dodge City, Kansas, for the following

products:

*FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DODGE CITY KS
942 PM CDT MON SEP 17 2001*

...A FLASH FLOOD WARNING CONTINUES FOR NESS AND RUSH COUNTIES UNTIL 1230 AM CDT...

DODGE CITY DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED RAIN CONTINUED TO FALL ACROSS ALREADY SATURATED AREAS OF NESS AND RUSH COUNTIES.

SOME LOCATIONS AFFECTED INCLUDE UTICA...TIMKEN...SHAFFER...RUSH CENTER...RANSOM AND NESS CITY.

AT 915 PM CDT RUSH COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTED MANY HIGH WATER PROBLEMS ACROSS THE COUNTY. WATER WAS OVER ROADWAYS ON HIGHWAY 96 NEAR TIMKEN...HIGHWAY 183 NEAR LIEBENTHAL AND ALSO NEAR THE RUSH/ELLIS COUNTY LINE NORTH OF LIEBENTHAL...AS WELL AS AT THE K-4 TURNOFF NEAR BISON. SHERIFFS OFFICERS AND KDOT OFFICIALS ARE MANNING THE PROBLEM SPOTS...SLOWING TRAFFIC DOWN...AND MONITORING THE FLOODING SITUATION.

IN ADDITION, HIGH WATER ALONG THE BIG THUNDER CREEK WAS CAUSING WATER TO FLOW INTO BASEMENTS IN LIEBENTHAL. OFFICIALS WERE GETTING SANDBAG OPERATIONS UNDERWAY IN LIEBENTHAL.

BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT WHEN IT IS HARDER TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF FLOODS AND FLASH FLOODS. IF FLASH FLOODING IS OBSERVED ACT QUICKLY. MOVE UP TO HIGHER GROUND TO ESCAPE FLOOD WATERS. DO NOT STAY IN AREAS SUBJECT TO FLOODING WHEN WATER BEGINS RISING.

DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE INTO AREAS WHERE THE WATER COVERS THE ROADWAY. THE WATER DEPTH MAY BE TOO GREAT TO ALLOW YOUR CAR TO CROSS SAFELY. VEHICLES CAUGHT IN RISING WATER SHOULD BE ABANDONED QUICKLY. MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND.

A FLASH FLOOD WARNING MEANS THAT FLOODING IS OCCURRING OR IS IMMINENT. MOST FLASH FLOOD DEATHS OCCUR IN AUTOMOBILES. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS BRIDGES...DIPS...OR OTHER LOW SPOTS IF WATER COVERS THE ROADWAY. NEVER TRY TO CROSS A FLOWING STREAM...EVEN A SMALL ONE...ON FOOT.

STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS FOR THE LATEST WEATHER INFORMATION.

\$\$

BURKE

*FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DODGE CITY KS
1047 PM CDT THU SEP 13 2001*

...A FLASH FLOOD WARNING CONTINUES FOR NESS AND RUSH COUNTIES UNTIL 1215 AM CDT...

DODGE CITY DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED 6 HOUR RAINFALL ESTIMATES OF UP TO 6 TO 7 INCHES IN EXTREME NORTHEAST NESS COUNTY WITH 6 HOUR AMOUNTS OF UP TO 3 TO 5 INCHES IN NORTHWEST RUSH COUNTY AND ACROSS PARTS OF NORTH CENTRAL NESS COUNTY. MOST OF THE RAINFALL ACROSS NESS COUNTY AND RUSH COUNTY WILL RUN OFF INTO THE SNAKE CREEK AND BIG TIMBER CREEK THROUGH THE NIGHT. OTHER TRIBUTARIES WHICH WILL SEE CONSIDERABLE

RUN OFF ARE THE BAZINE DRY CREEK, THE EAST BRANCH OF SAND CREEK AND PAGE CREEK, ALL NEAR RANSOM.

RURAL ROADWAYS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE WASH OUTS IN PLACES AND DRIVERS ARE URGED TO USE CAUTION, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT WHEN DAMAGE TO COUNTY ROADS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SEE. SOME LOCATIONS AFFECTED INCLUDE RANSOM...MCCRACKEN...BROWNELL AND ARNOLD.

AT 745 PM CDT THE PUBLIC REPORTED EXTENSIVE FLOODING ALONG THE SNAKE CREEK AND BIG TIMBER CREEK NEAR HIGHWAY 4 EAST OF BROWNELL AND NORTHWEST OF MCCRACKEN. BY 945 PM LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THE WATER OVER HIGHWAY 4 AT A POINT 7 MILES EAST OF BROWNELL WAS BEGINNING TO RECEDE.

BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT WHEN IT IS HARDER TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF FLOODS AND FLASH FLOODS. IF FLASH FLOODING IS OBSERVED ACT QUICKLY. MOVE UP TO HIGHER GROUND TO ESCAPE FLOOD WATERS. DO NOT STAY IN AREAS SUBJECT TO FLOODING WHEN WATER BEGINS RISING.

DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE INTO AREAS WHERE THE WATER COVERS THE ROADWAY. THE WATER DEPTH MAY BE TOO GREAT TO ALLOW YOUR CAR TO CROSS SAFELY. VEHICLES CAUGHT IN RISING WATER SHOULD BE ABANDONED QUICKLY. MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND.

A FLASH FLOOD WARNING MEANS THAT FLOODING IS OCCURRING OR IS IMMINENT. MOST FLASH FLOOD DEATHS OCCUR IN AUTOMOBILES. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS BRIDGES...DIPS...OR OTHER LOW SPOTS IF WATER COVERS THE ROADWAY. NEVER TRY TO CROSS A FLOWING STREAM...EVEN A SMALL ONE...ON FOOT.

CONTINUED RUNOFF FROM THE HEAVY RAIN MAY KEEP SMALL CREEKS...DITCHES...AND DRAWS FULL OF WATER. IN THE EVENT YOU COME ACROSS A FLOODED ROADWAY...DO NOT DRIVE ACROSS IT. NEVER WADE INTO FLOWING WATER AS THE FORCE MAY KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR FEET.

STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS FOR THE LATEST WEATHER INFORMATION.

JOHNSON

Good Job, WFO Dodge City staff !

W/CR2x2 - Wendy L. Pearson

SYSTEMS OPERATION DIVISION

Thomas F. Schwein

NOAA Weather Radio Program

FY01 Congressionally Appropriated Sites

Illinois - As of Sept 30, eight of 10 sites are installed and six are operational. The four non-operational sites at Dixon, Freeport, Galesburg and Bloomington are scheduled to be completed in October. Freeport was installed on schedule but was not put on the air until October 4, after MCI failed to complete connections inside the building. Dixon was also installed on schedule but will not be on the air until October 15, as a result of similar communication line installation problems by MCI Worldcom. After some last minute lease problems, the Bloomington site is

ready and awaiting transmitter installation by Crown contractor, now scheduled for October 26. The Galesburg tower lease has been signed but this site requires a separate building lease, which is imminent. All equipment is in place, contractor has scheduled antenna installation work and site is scheduled to be on the air by October 30.

Kentucky - All 11 sites are operational. Installation of the upgraded transmitter equipment at Paintsville has been delayed due to insufficient floor space for the additional transmitter rack. The Paintsville site continues to be operational using existing transmitter equipment, and we are investigating the feasibility of mounting the new transmitter equipment in the existing open equipment rack, providing sufficient open rack space is available. If space is available, we will replace equipment in present building by November 15. If there is insufficient rack space, we will propose to OOS to release the transmitter for use at another location and request a replacement transmitter at a later date when the state replaces the building late this next year.

South Dakota - Work continues at both the Porcupine and Reliance sites. Lease action has been frustrated by lack of response on the part of the selected tower owners. Negotiations are still ongoing at both sites. We have escalated the Porcupine lease issue and are now in direct contact with the Sioux Tribal Council to assist us in expediting response in our lease negotiations. Site is expected to be operational by November 20. At Reliance, the transmitter is on site and communication lines installed. Site preparation will begin upon receipt of signed lease which we believe is imminent. Site is expected to be operational by Nov 1.

NOAA Weather Radio Expansion Program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has accepted applications from 24 applicants in Central Region under the Weather Radio Transmitter Grant Program. We have received NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) proposals from 14 of the locations and are in the process of establishing the sites. Our local offices are assisting local officials at the other 10 sites in finding suitable tower locations.

Cooperator Sites

There were no gifted sites accepted in September.

Eighty-seven gifted expansion projects are in some stage of development: Colorado (6), Indiana (2), Iowa (18), Kansas (8), Michigan (6), Minnesota (15), Missouri (15), Nebraska (14), Utah (1) and Wyoming (2).

Eighteen gifted sites are in the operational test phase: Montrose, Colorado; Marshalltown, Maquekota, and St. Ansgar, Iowa; Blue Rapids, Kansas; Branson, Clinton, Carrollton, Maryville, Trenton, and Eldorado Springs, Missouri; Coleraine, Ely, Grand Marais, Jeffers, New Ulm, and Russell, Minnesota; and Valentine, Nebraska. Canadian frequency was approved for the site at Grand Marais, Minnesota, but approval is still pending for Ely, Minnesota.

Thirteen gifted site donation forms have been submitted to DOC for signature: West Burlington, and Fairfield, Iowa; Angola, Indiana; Abilene, Hays, and Ulysses, Kansas; West Olive,

Michigan; and Doniphan, Fredericktown, Kahoka, Lancaster, LaPlata, and Piedmont, Missouri.

DOC donation forms have been signed for three gifted sites: Fort Dodge, Iowa; Beaumont, Kansas; and Popular Bluff, Missouri.

Six non-gifted expansion projects are being worked in Colorado (1), Minnesota (1) and Wisconsin (4). The site at Gunflint, Minnesota, is in the operational test mode pending frequency approval by Canadian officials.

W/CR42x3 - Stephen Schild

Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS)

ASOS Commissioning Activity

The ASOS for Trinidad, Colorado (TAD), which had been diverted to the FAA Academy for a couple years, was commissioned on September 27. Installation of the ASOS at Lee's Summit, Missouri (LXT), is scheduled for the week of October 22. The FAA redirected this system to LXT following the closure of nearby Richards Gebaur Memorial Airport (GVW). A December 2001 commissioning is being sought.

Central Region officially commissioned all its initial ASOS units on July 26, with the commissioning of Minot, North Dakota (MOT), and was recognized by WSH as the first CONUS Region to accomplish this task.

Transition of National Weather Service ASOS Augmentation/Backup Sites

Central Region has worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Great Lakes Region and Central Regions for the transfer of augmentation and backup at four NWS ASOS locations.

The transition was successful at three of the four sites with FAA contract observers working in NWS leased space at Wichita, Kansas (ICT); and Grand Rapids, Michigan (GRR); and in NWS Forecast Office space at Springfield, Missouri (SGF). Since the FAA failed to accomplish required security checks and FAA badging of the contract employees prior to the contract start date at Sioux Falls, South Dakota (FSD), those FAA contract employees were not allowed entrance into the WFO work space. Therefore, the NWS staff at WFO Sioux Falls will continue to augment and backup the ASOS for another week until such time as the contract employees receive proper clearance and identification.

W/CR42x2 - Tom Townsend

AWIPS

AWIPS version 5.1.1 is being install region wide and is expected to be completed at all Central Region sites during October.

AWIPS version 5.1.2 alpha was installed on the Central Region Headquarters AWIPS in August.

Forecasters from WFO Kansas City visited Central Region to exercise the system and to provide comments. Their comments were provided to the Office of Science and Technology (OS&T). We continue to work with the OS&T to resolve performance issues before 5.1.2 is released nationally.

W/CR41x2 - Bill Gery

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Richard L. Livingston

Use of RiverPro for Dams with Emergency Action Plans

Emergency Action Plans outline specific information to be disseminated to the public for designated dams. When such plans exist, this information can be placed in predefined messages via the RiverPro software.

WFO Northern Indiana Service Hydrologist Greg Lamberty has provided instructions for using RiverPro to accomplish these tasks. His paper, *Using RiverPro to Develop and Disseminate Flash Flood Watches and Warnings for Dams with Emergency Action Plans*, has been posted on the CRH Web page as Central Region Technical Attachment 02-01.

The paper can be viewed via the Publications link in the Scientific Services section of the Home page.

Significant Weather Observer Program in Central Illinois

A Significant Weather Observer program has been developed in central Illinois to expand surface weather data resources.

An Overview of the Significant Weather Observer Program at WFO Central Illinois (ILX), written by Met Intern Lonnie Fisher, HMT Chris Geelhart and DAPM Billy Ousley; discusses the current structure and utility of this program as well as its potential for future expansion. It may be viewed at:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hilgths/oct01/swoppaper.pdf>

W/CR3x1 – Preston W. Leftwich